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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8506
INFO RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY 0114
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY 0003
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1314
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 1358
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0196
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0370

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 000494

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IO/RHS FOR REBECCA JOVIN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/12/2018

TAGS: PHUM PREL EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN ASPIRATIONS FOR PRESIDENCY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

REF: SECSTATE 24512

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Stuart Jones

Reasons: 1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (C) DCM (joined by visiting NEA PDAS Feltman) raised reftel points with MFA Assistant Minister Hatem Seif al Nasser on March 11 (Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit was on travel). Nasser confirmed that the Egyptians were interested in the presidency of the UN Human Rights Council, but had no details. We told Nasser that it would be best for the GOE to consult with us prior to any next steps on its potential candidacy. We emphasized that a state seeking the presidency of the HRC can expect a higher degree of scrutiny by the international community of its human rights record. We are not looking for a public debate with Egypt on its human rights record. Nasser said he understood our concerns and promised to "flag this for the minister."

RICCIARDONE